

HILLMORTON



HILLMORTON HIGH SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS





WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Prospective Students, Parents/Caregivers and Whānau.

Choosing a secondary school is a serious and important task. Schools are each unique.

Matching a school's values, culture, goals and approach to your individual needs, is not straightforward. It requires considered thought.

I am sure that you realize that the values, beliefs and motivation of the principal directly influence each unique school culture. It is therefore important for you to have an understanding of who I am, and in what I believe.

I was raised in Christchurch in a family which values humour, individuality, generosity, creativity and achievement. Our parents encouraged their children to be 'free souls'. They tried not to manipulate, but to keep a watchful eye on our development. They wanted us to be 'good people' and to grow up without bias towards others; without bias of race or creed, of abilities or disabilities, of wealth or poverty. As a family we remain very close.

At Hillmorton we are working hard to create a real sense of community where diversity is valued. This teaches our young people to see value in, to enjoy and even celebrate, our differences. It is these differences that make Hillmorton High School such a vibrant and exciting school, and a wonderful place at which to work and study.

As Principal, I value the following: optimism, honesty, integrity and loyalty, and the celebration of difference, the pursuit of excellence and the

firm belief that schools and, indeed, life should be full of fun, vitality and challenge.

I also believe in setting high standards for myself, our students, and for those with whom I work. I believe in consultation, but not to the extent that nothing gets done. Harnessing the abilities, strengths and knowledge of our staff, students, parents and our community will lead to success for our students.

My basic philosophy of education is based on the importance of goal-setting, learning from one's mistakes and achievements, celebrating success and differences, and a willingness for all involved in education to question and critically review, in order to improve the quality of what we do. I believe that it is of the utmost importance to give our young people the opportunity to experience success and to learn about responsibility. At Hillmorton High School we develop in our students, open minds, a desire to learn, strong citizenship skills, and a will to achieve to the best of their abilities.

Our talented staff at Hillmorton High School are passionate about education. Hillmorton High School provides an inclusive environment based on respect and caring.

Hillmorton is a school where, with our communities, we nurture well-rounded and accomplished young people, prepared and ready for life.

Ann Brokenshire,
Principal.

OUR MOTTO

Personal best - Nothing Less
Whāia te iti kahurangi



Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei. Pursue that which is precious, and do not be deterred by anything less than a lofty mountain.

A proverb which encourages one to strive, to set goals, to persevere.





OUR MISSION

Inspiring academic excellence, leadership and a love of learning.

OUR VALUES

Turangawaewae

- Belonging
- A place to stand

Whānaungatanga

- Interconnectedness
- Positive relationships

Ako

- Learning
- With and from each other

Mana

- Respect
- Strength of character

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

- Accelerating progress in learning
- Involving our communities
- Developing our environment





HILLMORTON ABOUT US

Hillmorton High School is an urban co-educational school situated in the South-West of Christchurch.

The school is a medium-sized Years 7-13 school. The size means that we are able to provide your student with a caring, intimate environment, where they are known as an individual.

We are fortunate to be able to offer a broad range of learning experiences, subjects and environments to meet your child's educational needs.

Students attending Hillmorton High School come from a variety of ethnic, social and academic backgrounds, with the majority

of students living within this south-west area of Christchurch. Hillmorton is a community school – many former students living in the area now send their children to the school.

Our school's population closely mirrors the wider social fabric of New Zealand society. The international students who choose to come and study at Hillmorton, add a further cosmopolitan element to the school.

Our strong focus on celebrating diversity and community, allows Hillmorton students to develop the necessary skills that enable them to lead successful, productive lives in a global society, in the 21st Century.



There are fewer school transitions, which provides stability in the crucial middle years.

THE KEY BENEFITS OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS 7-10

- There are fewer school transitions, which provides stability in the crucial middle years.
- In this stable and caring environment, students develop the skills and disposition needed for success in later qualifications.
- There is an emphasis on developing a strong community.
- A personalised learning journey is developed with all staff as your child grows through Years 7 to 13.
- We offer an inclusive smaller learning environment where students are known and taught as individuals.
- Experienced specialist Year 7 and 8 teachers.
- Subject specialists in Science, The Arts, Technology, Physical Education and Languages.
- Access to secondary specialist facilities. For example, fully equipped Science laboratories and new purpose built Technology facilities.
- Students are provided with abundant opportunities for personal development and passions.
- There is the opportunity to learn from senior students in a safe environment where senior students are role models.



ACCELERATING PROGRESS IN LEARNING

Achievement is the primary focus at Hillmorton High School. All students are encouraged to believe in their own ability. Developing this potential so that our students achieve to the best of their ability, is the driving force at the school.

A culture of continuous school improvement exists, where achievement in broad terms - academic and social - is emphasized.

Our Curriculum is broad, designed to meet the diverse needs of our school community. In the Middle School, Years 7-10, students are placed in classes appropriate to their achievement levels and needs. There are numerous

opportunities for the high-achievers, a student support centre allows for interventions to help students at all levels, achieve their best.

In the senior school a wide variety of both academic and vocational courses are available. Students are able to multi-level study, choosing a course that best fits their individual learning needs.

Our expectation is that all students in all classes, at all levels, will gain success.

Hillmorton High School provides the best possible education for its students by promoting quality teachers and teaching thereby providing opportunities for all students - leading to an engagement

in, and success from, the challenges of learning.

We encourage respect for others in our society, and we are committed to building New Zealand as a worthwhile place in which to live and prosper.

At Hillmorton High School, we are a Professional Learning Community where we:

- ensure all students learn
- work collaboratively
- focus on results

In this way, our students learn in an inclusive, authentic learning community which focuses on students' individual and collective needs.





INVOLVING OUR COMMUNITIES

Hillmorton High School is a diverse school in many ways; culturally, ethnically, socially and academically, and yet it is very much a community where our differences are celebrated.

We celebrate our background based on the Treaty of Waitangi with a bi-cultural focus preparing our students for participating fully in life in Aotearoa New Zealand with a sound understanding of our history.

As New Zealand itself is becoming increasingly multi-cultural, this is reflected in the cultural diversity of our school population.

All students' ethnic backgrounds are celebrated and the school helps our young

people to develop positive identity. Symbols of these diverse backgrounds can be seen around the school.

Hillmorton High School has for a number of years, enjoyed and benefited from the presence of a number of international students who make Hillmorton their school of choice for study.

The Upland specialist classes are for students with severe multiple disabilities. These students are supported in their programmes of learning both in mainstream classes and in the local community and bring with them a special diversity to our school. We have high expectations for these students, as with all Hillmorton students.



We celebrate our background based on the Treaty of Waitangi with a bi-cultural focus.

We have satellite provision for students enrolled at Van Asch Deaf Education Centre. Students attend some classes with Hillmorton students, receive specialist support and have the opportunity to be involved in the wider life of the School.

We offer a broad range of subjects and activities at Hillmorton. Students are able to be involved in such activities as ICAS and Cantamaths.

Many opportunities are provided for students to participate and excel in The Arts and Sports.

A broad range of sporting activities is also offered, with participation rates in inter-school sport being high. Students in Year 7 and 8 also enjoy participation in Hagley Sport, Koru Games and other sporting competitions that are provided for this level locally and nationally.

We aim to meet the varying interests and needs of a changing school population.





DEVELOPING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Our new facilities will serve our communities well into the future.

The buildings themselves will educate us about our pasts, they will be an exciting and engaging learning environment and will also have a future focus.

Through our programmes of learning, students will learn about and participate in, caring for improving the overall school and wider community environment, becoming active citizens.

Our school is a community hub with a growing number of Adult and Community Education classes and activities ensuring that the school is used well beyond "school hours".





INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

Leadership opportunities are
abundant in a school this size.

The school has a commitment to servant leadership. Students at all levels, provide valuable leadership within the school in the form of service - a diverse range of activities is undertaken. At all levels there is a focus on encouraging students to become critical thinkers, and to develop the skills of independence and leadership.

We believe that our students should be empowered to have an effective say in the decision-making processes and the daily operation of the school. Students are provided with opportunities to express their opinion on school matters, and they are consulted on decisions that affect them.



MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR COUNCIL

Both a Middle School and Senior Council provide vehicles for student voice, with direct involvement with members of the Senior Leadership Team. They are involved in a number of fundraising and service activities.

WHĀNAU HOUSE LEADERS

Each year, students are elected to become Whānau House leaders having a variety of responsibilities throughout the year.

PEER SUPPORT LEADERS

While working to ensure a safe and caring environment, senior students have the opportunity to serve, and gain leadership experience as peer support for our younger students.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The student representative elected to the Board plays a vital and active role in the governance of the school. The Board values the opinions and advice offered by the student representative, who is fully involved in all Board activities.

STUDENT VOICE FORUM

Students, from any year level, have, on a regular basis, the opportunity to meet with school leadership to discuss and share ideas and concerns. This sees students able to have a direct involvement in the decision-making processes that affect them here at Hillmorton.

OTHER ROLES

Working in the canteen, being guides, librarians, peer tutors, coaching, are just a few of the other roles that are essential to the smooth running of the school and that students regularly ably fulfil.

AWARDS SCHEMES

The school has awards schemes operating whereby students are recognized for their efforts -

SENIOR SCHOOL

Colours | Academic, Sporting, Cultural and Service

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Whāia te iti Kaurangi Awards and Koru Awards | Academic, Cultural and Sporting and Service



SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Hillmorton High School has a proud reputation as an effectively functioning school community. In part, this is because there is a considerable emphasis placed on establishing positive relationships between students, staff and home.

Behaviour guidelines are clearly established and consistently enforced, so that students have a clear understanding of our expectations. In this way we establish a safe and positive learning environment for all students.

The school is divided into, a Middle School, Years 7–10 Years and a Senior School Years 11–13. Since becoming a composite school, many of our students enter at Year 7 and remain at Hillmorton for their secondary schooling.

There is strong leadership at all levels with the Principal, Deputy Principals, Deans, a Head of Middle School, Heads of Departments and all staff. Student leadership is also considered important with opportunities from Year 7 through to Year 13.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHILD

We pride ourselves on being a caring community where the value of whānaungatanga is ever present. Support for your child is available through any member of staff.

GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

Guidance Counsellors help students and their families by;

- offering specialist counselling services and advice when needed
- helping them find their own good solutions to problems
- finding ways to help them do their best
- running family programmes
- running health programmes

Students are able to access a number of agencies for support.



We establish a safe & positive learning environment for all students.

TUTORS

Each student is placed in a whānau house tutor group with a tutor. Meeting regularly, the tutor is another adult in each student's school life helping them to settle into school and supporting them on a variety of matters such as ensuring good attendance.

CAREERS AND TRANSITION STAFF

As students move from secondary education to that next step on their journey whether it be university study, a course, or work, they are supported by Careers and Transition staff. Our career development programme begins in Year 7; students gradually realise the variety of pathways available to them.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Specialist support is available both in the classroom and in our Student Support for students who may require extra support to enable them to experience success. A strong feature of our School is our ability to help students with specific learning disabilities.

UPLAND

Upland is our specialist area for those students with serious multiple disabilities. These students are supported by specialist staff in their Upland classes, in mainstream classes and in the wider community to achieve success and meet their individual goals.



HILLMORTON'S HERITAGE

THE ENVIRONMENT

The school site was once a very large swamp extending from Lincoln Road to the Cashmere Hills.

This swamp was teeming with life: eels, native trout, freshwater crayfish and was a rich food source for Maori. The raupo which grew in the swamps also provided material for a unique boat/raft called the makihi.

The name of the Upper Heathcote was Waimakihi and the settlement near Sunnyside Hospital was called Omakihi.

THE NAME HILLMORTON

Throughout the years there has been controversy over the spelling Hillmorton or Hillmorten.

R.M. Morten owned land in the area and some people believe the area was named after him. However, the Lands and Survey Department ruled that Hillmorton was correct as it was the name of Rev Joseph Twigger's farm of 1876 which was named after Hillmorton near Rugby, England.



THE NAME HOROMAKA

Horomaka was a famous Waitaha ancestress who was married to an equally famous man. During a battle alongside the Upper Heathcote River she was killed and her body was left there.

Rikki Ellison, the Rangatira from Taumutu (he is represented on our waharoa) designated the area of land between Hillmorton and Hornby to be called Horomaka.

THE SCHOOL CREST

The school crest, a Bengal tiger, was taken from the family crest of Sir John Cracroft Wilson – owner of the nearby Cashmere estate.

The tiger was chosen because it symbolizes beauty, strength and fiery determination.



THE ORIGINAL LATIN MOTTO

The Latin motto "Virtus Sibi Praemium" translates as 'a good character brings its own rewards.'

It also appears on the Cracroft Wilson Crest.

THE KORU AND MAUNGA

This design represents – New Life/New Beginnings.

The Koru symbolizes a new beginning of learning things Maori at Hillmorton, a recognition of how Maori identify with their culture.

The black triangle is a mountain. The blue is the river flowing from life, the foetus, the beginning of life that appears in unfurling of the Koru.



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